

*Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement, following the Delaware River Basin Commissions decision to cancel a vote on final fracking regulations. Last week, the congressman sent a letter to DRBC Commission Members urging them to cancel the vote.*

*Hinchey, a co-chair of the Congressional Delaware River Task Force, has continually pressed the DRBC to conduct a comprehensive environmental review prior to issuing new regulations governing water withdrawals from the basin for hydraulic fracturing. Earlier this year, he strongly supported New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's lawsuit to compel the Delaware River Basin Commission to conduct a cumulative environmental impact study of shale gas drilling in the Delaware River Watershed.*

*Hinchey is a leader in the effort to protect drinking water and the environment from the risks of hydraulic fracturing. He is a co-author of the FRAC Act, which would mandate public disclosure of chemicals used in frack fluid and allow the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate fracking activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The congressman also authored the appropriations language that led to the current EPA study on hydraulic fracturing.*

"I am pleased that the Delaware River Basin Commission has followed through on my request to cancel a planned vote on the adoption of Natural Gas Development Regulations for the Delaware River Basin. The commission should not begin considering adoption of any final regulations until it conducts a comprehensive and cumulative environmental impact study. Without such a study, there is no guarantee that the DRBC's regulations would be sufficient to protect the Basin."